

REMARKS

The Office rejected claims 1-17 and 23-31 under 35 USC 102(e) in view of US Published Application 2002/0198863 to Anjur, an application which is commonly owned and shares an inventor with this application. Claims 18-22 have been objected to for depending from a rejected base claim. The Office is also requiring formal drawings in reply to this action.

The Drawings

Applicant is submitting formal drawings with this reply.

The Rejection in view of Anjur

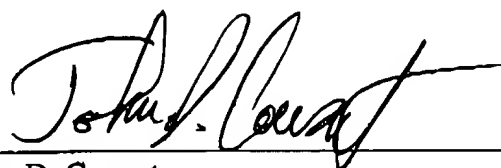
The 102(e) rejection in view of the Anjur publication is improper. The filing date of the Anjur application is April 1, 2002, which is more than seven months AFTER the filing date of this application. Anjur does claim priority from an earlier filed parent application, but the Anjur application is a continuation-in-part of that parent application, and the portions of Anjur that the Office has relied on in rejecting Applicant's claims do not appear in the parent application. Therefore, the portions of Anjur's description relied on by the Office do not predate this application, and Anjur is not a proper 102(e) reference. Accordingly, these claims all are patentable over Anjur.

CONCLUSION

The claims all are allowable over the art of record. Please charge any fees that might be due, including the fee for a three-month extension of time, but excluding the issue fee, to deposit account 50-1673.

Respectfully,

Date: 6/28/04



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